BENGALURU, SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 22 | Humidity 66% Scattered thunderstorms Sensex 75,415 | Nifty 23,719 | Gold 1,58,723 | Silver 2,74,886 | Dollar 95.63 | Euro 111.02 | GBP 128.47

TOXIC FLOW

IISc studied nine lakes in city, only to find that many have high uranium levels and almost all of them are on verge of ecological disaster

PAGE 4

STRAYIN' ALIVE

City houses 2,79,335 stray dogs; highest concentration is in Mahadevapura Zone, where KR Puram alone accounts for 38,075 streeties

PAGE 5

Worried about their wards' academic performance, many parents discourage kids from picking up a book to read for fun, but experts insist sometimes fiction plays a bigger role in emotional and intellectual development

READ THE ROOM

Recreational reading termed as 'unproductive'

| Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While a reading culture is beginning to take shape in the city, and concerns grow over declining reading habits among children and young adults in India, psychologists and education activists say excessive parental control over what children read may be contributing to the problem.

In many Indian households, reading is encouraged only when it is linked to academics, examinations or skill-building. Fiction, fantasy, romance, comics and other forms of recreational reading are often dismissed as distractions, leading many children to associate reading with pressure rather than enjoyment.

Mental health professionals warn that such attitudes can affect not only reading habits, but also emotional and intellectual development. According to Nerissa Hendricks, a city-based doctor, fiction plays a significant role in a child's psychological growth.

"Fiction is not merely entertainment — it helps children develop empathy, imagination, emotional understanding and social awareness," she said. Hendricks explained that stories allow children to emotionally engage with experiences beyond their own environment. "When children read stories, they mentally place themselves in the lives of different characters and experiences. This strengthens their ability to understand emotions, relationships, struggles and perspectives beyond their immediate environment," she said.

"When children reach higher levels, the focus is on academics. Their (parents') behaviour is driven by the reality of our competitive world. However, reading only textbooks leads to the child developing a myopic view of the world

—Niranjanaradhya VP, educationist

However, many parents continue to prioritise only reading material considered "productive", particularly in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Fake age, real wedding

How tampered Aadhaar cards are being used to carry out child marriages

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Just when authorities thought child marriages were coming under control, they stumbled upon a far more alarming trend: Families are allegedly taking a digital backdoor route to bypass the law by changing birth dates on Aadhaar cards and presenting minors as adults.

What shocked officials even more was the brazenness of the method. In multiple recent cases reported in Bengaluru Rural district, girls who were legally underage were allegedly shown as 18-plus through altered Aadhaar records, allowing marriage preparations to proceed openly in temples and wedding halls without raising immediate suspicion.

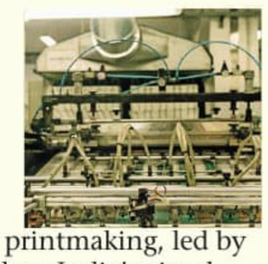
The discovery has now triggered fears of an organised illegal network helping families manipulate identity records to quietly conduct child marriages despite growing enforcement and awareness campaigns. The first major red flag emerged in Nelamangala taluk, where officials rushed to stop a suspected child marriage after receiving information that a minor girl's Aadhaar details had allegedly been modified to change her date of birth.

Days later, another case surfaced in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Visual legacy



What India Learned to See, From Battala to the Ravi Varma Press and Beyond', presented by the Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation. The exhibition explores how printmaking, led by Raja Ravi Varma, shaped modern India's visual culture through oleographs, lithographs and rare printed works. **Where: Gallery G, Ashok Nagar; When: Running until May 31**

02 Poetry evening

Urban Solace will host "Tuesdays with the Bard", featuring poets Nandhini, Thavasi and Muni. Tickets on BookMyShow and Insider. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul, Ulsoor; When: May 26, 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

03 Lorca play returns

Ranga Shankara will stage Federico García Lorca's The House of Bernarda Alba, directed by Arundhati Raja. The play explores repression, patriarchy and silence through the story of Bernarda Alba and her daughters. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: May 30, 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm**

04 Denim fest returns

Nexus Select Malls in Bengaluru has launched the fourth edition of the Denim & Sneaker Fest with a live concert by Yerd Plate Dose. The festival will feature streetwear collections, sneaker drops, shopping offers, giveaways and immersive fashion experiences across the mall. **Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala; When: Running till June 15**

05 Equestrian meet

Embassy International Riding School will host the Karnataka State Equestrian Competition. Organised under the Karnataka Riding Association, the free event will feature dressage and show jumping contests with riders from clubs including Zippy Equestrian, Flying Sea Stallion and Royal Equestrian. **Where: Embassy International Riding School , Tharahunise; When: May 24, 7 am onwards**

Paperless classroom tracking begins

Karnataka schools embrace digital transformation as holistic report cards promise instant academic tracking, transparent assessments and stronger parental participation

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From LKG to PU, students will receive comprehensive online progress updates featuring teacher feedback, developmental insights and accessible records through smartphones

In a major step towards modernising the education system, the Education Department plans to introduce digital "holistic report cards" for students from LKG to Pre-University (PU) level beginning this academic year. After successfully making SSLC and II PUC marksheets available through DigiLocker, the department is now expanding its digital push to cover a child's entire schooling journey.

An official said, "Under the new system, parents will no longer have to rely solely on physical marksheets to track academic performance. Instead, detailed progress reports will be sent directly to their registered mobile numbers and email addresses, ensuring instant and easy access to their child's academic updates."

The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 and NCERT's Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) framework, which emphasises continuous and comprehensive evaluation of students. The holistic report card will go beyond exam scores to include teacher feedback and insights into a child's overall development, offering a more complete picture of learning outcomes.

This digital system aims to help parents closely monitor their child's academic growth and identify areas needing attention through their smartphones.

Officials said the use of advanced technology would ensure every aspect of a student's progress is communicated efficiently and transparently. "While the shift to digital reporting marks a significant change, the department has clarified that physical marksheets and progress reports will continue to be issued alongside the digital versions. However, the new system is expected to reduce dependence on paper records and streamline data storage, making it easier for both schools and parents to maintain and access academic information," an official said.

By providing real-time updates and a comprehensive overview of performance, the initiative is expected to enhance parental involvement in education and support better learning outcomes for students. "The rollout will cover government and aided schools across the state, ensuring that parents of students from LKG to PU level can access detailed academic information at their fingertips. With this move, Karnataka is taking a significant step towards a paperless, technology-driven education system that prioritises transparency, accessibility and holistic development," the official added.

Surya Nagar stadium work begins

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said the state government has taken a major step towards Bengaluru's development by initiating the construction of an international-standard cricket stadium at Suryanagar near the city. Speaking after inaugurating and laying foundation stones for multiple housing and infrastructure projects organised jointly by the Housing Department and the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) at Suryagram, he said the project reflects the government's long-term development vision.

Referring to the stadium in Gujarat with a seating capacity of around 132,000, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka's proposed stadium would become the second-largest in the country. He added that it would boost sports, tourism, employment generation and the local economy of surrounding villages. The Chief Minister said the stadium would be built entirely using KHB funds without financial assistance from the state government. He cited estimates suggesting KHB could generate nearly Rs 20,000 crore through the sale of vacant residential sites.

The event also saw the launch of the Chief Minister's "Namma Mane" housing scheme, foundation stone-laying for residential complexes, and symbolic distribution of housing sites to landowners.

— BMB

Trains will now stop at Bengauru East station

South Western Railway's Bengaluru Division has announced that several trains, which had skipped Bengaluru East railway station for the past few months due to platform works at Cantonment station, will once again halt there. The restored stoppages include key express and MEMU services such as the Chennai Central–Ashokapuram Express, Tirupati–Chamarajanagar Express, Cuddalore Port–Mysuru Express, Mumbai CSMT–KSR Bengaluru Express, Kanyakumari–KSR Bengaluru Express, and Bhubaneswar–KSR Bengaluru Express.

Multiple suburban and MEMU services connecting KSR Bengaluru with places such as Marikuppam, Kolar, Bangarapet, Kuppam, Whitefield, Dharmapuri, Jolarpettai, and Anantapur will also resume halts at Bengaluru East station. The move is expected to ease commuter access in the eastern part of the city after months of inconvenience caused by the temporary suspension of stoppages.

— BMB

NMIMS UG registrations for 2026–27 close on May 26

SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) has announced that registrations for undergraduate programmes for the 2026–27 academic year will close on May 26, 2026. The institute is offering undergraduate courses across its campuses in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Shirpur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Indore, Chandigarh and Ahmedabad. Admissions will be conducted through entrance examinations, including NPAT for Commerce, NCET for Engineering and Pharmacy, NLAT for Law, NDAT for Design, and MST for Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science. Details related to programmes, eligibility criteria and applications are available on the official admissions portal.

— BMB

No Ebola cases, says minister

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has appealed to the public not to panic over Ebola while stressing the need for awareness and precaution. He said the Health Department is in constant touch with central authorities and is closely monitoring the situation. He added that no Ebola cases have been detected in the country so far and that even neighbouring countries have not reported any cases.

The minister said precautionary measures are already in place, including a 21-day monitoring period for travellers arriving from African countries such as Uganda and Congo.

Anyone showing symptoms will be immediately reported and treated. He urged the public not to believe rumours and assured them that both the state and central governments are following all necessary safety guidelines, with the Centre also issuing advisories to manage the situation effectively.

— BMB

CRIME FILES

Speeding auto rams into scooter, kills 22-yr-old

A 22-year-old BSC student died in a road accident after his two-wheeler was hit by an overspeeding mini goods auto under Jnanabharathi Traffic Police Station limits during the early hours of Friday.

The deceased, Sushank, a native of Shivamogga and resident of Ullal, was pursuing his degree at a private college and staying in a rented house in Mallathahalli.

Police said the accident occurred around 2.10 am near Kalagrama Junction, close to Mallathahalli Kere, when Sushank was riding his KTM bike towards Ambedkar College. While taking a right turn, mini goods auto allegedly driven at high speed by Harish, coming from the opposite direction, rammed into the bike.

The impact left Sushank severely injured. Passersby alerted police and shifted him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police arrested Harish and registered a case at Jnanabharathi Traffic Police Station. Officials are examining CCTV footage to ascertain the sequence of events. The body was shifted for postmortem examination, and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

e-bike rider killed in BMTC bus crash

A 23-year-old electric bike rider was killed after a BMTC bus allegedly rammed into his vehicle within the limits of Madiwala Traffic Police Station during the early hours of Friday.

The deceased, Saidurga Rao, hailed from Andhra Pradesh who had been living in Bengaluru for the past few years and working at a private company.

According to traffic police, the accident occurred near Tavarekere Junction at around 1.15 am. Police said Rao was riding his Yulu electric bike from Tavarekere Junction towards the check post when a BMTC bus travelling from Dairy Circle towards Sarjapur allegedly collided with the bike.

The impact caused severe injuries, and Rao died on the spot. The BMTC bus also reportedly hit a cab parked ahead after the collision.

Police have taken the bus driver into custody for questioning. A case has been registered at Madiwala Traffic Police Station, and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Pack of strays attack, injure student

A female student was attacked by a pack of more than 15 stray dogs in Hoysala Nagar near Ramamurthy Nagar in Bengaluru on Saturday, triggering fear among residents and students in the locality.

The victim, identified as Meghana, sustained minor injuries and escaped without serious harm. Residents said the dogs suddenly surrounded and chased her while she was walking through the area. CCTV footage has reportedly captured the incident.

Residents rushed Meghana to KR Puram Public Hospital, where she received primary treatment and was later discharged.

The incident comes days after a woman in HSR Layout was seriously injured by a pet dog during a morning walk in Teachers Colony. She suffered severe bite injuries to her face, neck, hands, and legs, requiring more than 50 stitches.

Police said the dog allegedly belonged to Amaresh Reddy. Following a complaint by the victim's husband, HSR Layout Police registered a case and began investigating alleged negligence. **–BMB**

Man dies by suicide at empty plot

A 28-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after slitting his throat in an empty lot under the Ashok Nagar police station limits on Friday morning.

The deceased was identified as Gautam, a resident of Wilson Garden. Police said passersby spotted his body in a vacant graveyard site and alerted authorities.

Police rushed to the spot and began a preliminary investigation. During an inquiry, officials found evidence suggesting Gautam had taken the extreme step himself. Police also learnt that he was mentally disturbed and had recently escaped from a rehabilitation centre.

Investigators said Gautam died on Thursday night, but the incident came to light only on Friday morning. Based on CCTV footage analysis, police concluded it was a case of suicide.

The body was shifted for postmortem examinations. No suicide note was recovered. Ashok Nagar police registered a case of unnatural death and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

POCSO case filed against boxing coach

A 50-year-old boxing coach has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act after a 17-year-old boxer accused him of sexual harassment. The FIR was registered at Sampangiramanagar Police Station after a complaint by the minor's mother. Police said the accused, who works at a boxing club inside the stadium on Kasturba Road, allegedly subjected the teenager to inappropriate behaviour for months. The complaint states harassment intensified during an out-of-state tournament in Chennai on May 17. Police booked him under Sections 8 and 12 of the POCSO Act and Section 351(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Investigation continues. **–BMB**

CCTV captures attack on cab driver

An Uber driver was allegedly assaulted by a group of men late at night on Bengaluru's Double Road, with the incident captured on CCTV cameras. The attack took place on May 22 within the limits of the Wilson Garden Police Station and surfaced after the video went viral on social media. According to police officials, another driver along with a group reportedly intercepted the Uber cab, blocked the vehicle and dragged the driver out before assaulting him. The CCTV footage shows the group surrounding the driver and assaulting him on the roadside, triggering panic among onlookers. Officials are tracing the registration numbers of both vehicles to identify the accused. **–BMB**

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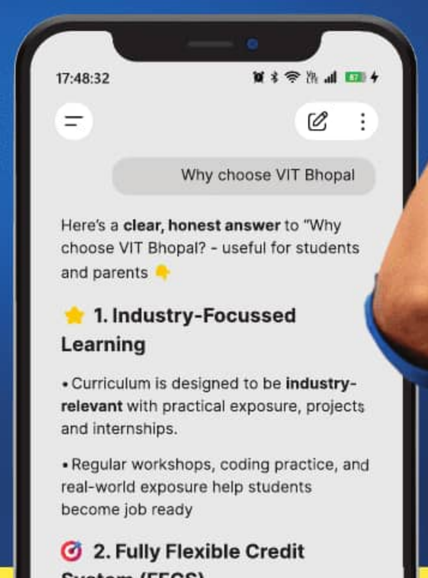
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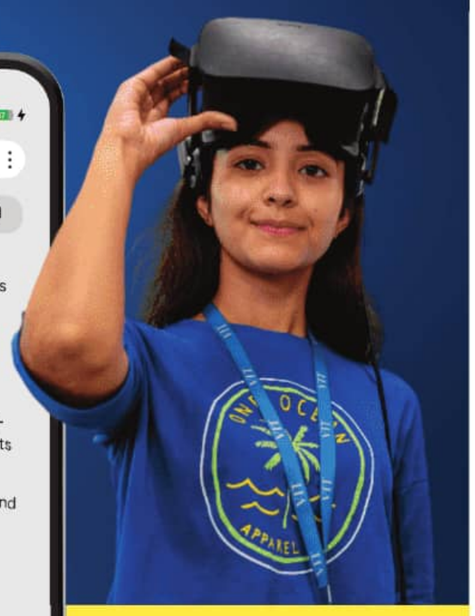

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Study exposes deepening pollution across B'luru lakes

Uranium contamination in wastewater-fed lakes highlights urgent need for closer monitoring and stronger treatment safeguards across Bengaluru

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Sewage discharge continues stressing Bengaluru's fragile water bodies

An IISc-led study has flagged that many Bengaluru lakes are on the brink of ecological disasters, with most facing moderate to high ecological risk due to wastewater discharge, urban runoff, and human activity.

Researchers examined the water quality index and ecological risk quotient of nine lakes: Jakkur, Yelahanka, Lakshmipura, Sullikere Ramasandra, Hesarghatta, Ulsoor, Madiwala, Varthur, and Gattahalli.

The lakes were selected to capture different stress patterns caused by human activity. While Hesarghatta remains relatively protected, Varthur receives untreated sewage directly, and Jakkur and Madiwala receive treated wastewater. Ulsoor is surrounded by dense traffic, while Ramasandra Sullikere and Gattahalli are impacted by agricultural waste and illegal sewage entry. Lakshmipura is influenced by crematorial rituals.

Experts found that except for Hesarghatta, all the lakes are under moderate to high ecological risk, meaning their aquatic ecosystems are already stressed and vulnerable to sudden deterioration.

Water samples collected from the lakes revealed dissolved metal contamination. Experts identified uranium as the major pollutant in lakes impacted by wastewater. Uranium levels in Jakkur reached 16.47 micrograms per litre, nearly 15 times higher than in upstream Yelahanka Lake. According to Dr Soumitra Boral of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Water Research at IISc, while the prescribed uranium limit for human drinking water is 60 micrograms per litre, the safe level for aquatic life is only 0.5 micrograms per litre.

"Groundwater in Bengaluru naturally has high uranium levels, leading to higher concentration in wastewater. However, in surface waters (lakes), this uranium gets removed from water columns due to organic matter and reducing agents. That is the reason lakes such as Hessarghatta, Yelahanka, and Ramasandra have low uranium levels. But when water is artificially treated in STPs, such as in the case of Jakkur, we need to be cognisant about its impact on lake water chemistry after release," said Dr Boral.

She added that uranium and other metals should be closely monitored to assess post-recharge changes during wastewater reuse. She also stressed the need for targeted uranium removal during treatment and cautioned against excessive dependence on economical procedures such as chlorination.

> **"There is an urgent need to incorporate catchment-scale hydrology, land-use planning, and rigorous water quality monitoring of critical parameters into lake management strategies**
>
> – Dr Soumitra Boral of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Water Research at IISc

Apart from Jakkur, lakes receiving heavy sewage and nutrient loads, including Varthur and Gattahalli, also showed high uranium concentrations. Researchers also found lead, zinc, chromium, nickel, copper, cobalt, and vanadium, mainly linked to vehicular runoff.

"The observation that even a managed lake such as Jakkur exhibits poorer water quality comparable to heavily polluted systems such as Varthur further underlines the vulnerability of urban lakes to maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities and practices of wastewater reuse," researchers noted.

Dr Boral said Bengaluru must move beyond conventional water quality frameworks. "There is an urgent need to incorporate catchment-scale hydrology, land-use planning, and rigorous water quality monitoring of critical parameters into lake management strategies. The government is currently spending money, but not in the right way. There must be better collaboration among lake authorities and scientific organisations," she said.

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Path blocked

Devarachikanahalli

Illegal concrete stairs built over a roadside drain on Nyanappanahalli Main Road in Devarachikanahalli have worsened pedestrian encroachment issues already caused by vendors and two-wheeler parking.

Garbage zone

Yellamma

Uncleared garbage dumping and drain mud disposal at 7th Cross, Yellamma, Kalyani Road, Magadi Road, are causing serious health and pollution concerns, while repeated complaints to civic workers remain unattended.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Calling all bookworms

academically competitive environments. "One growing concern today is that many parents tend to excessively control or police what children read, often prioritising only academic material considered 'productive'. While academics are important, restricting reading purely to textbooks can unintentionally reduce curiosity, creativity and the joy associated with reading," Hendricks said. Many say they experienced such restrictions growing up and recall being discouraged from reading novels during exam years or being criticised for reading genres considered "frivolous".

A 28-year-old software engineer from Bengaluru, said she gradually stopped reading fiction because of the guilt associated with it. "If I was reading a chemistry guidebook, nobody disturbed me. But if it was a novel, suddenly I was told I was wasting time. Eventually, I stopped reading for fun altogether," she said.

Education activist Niranjanaradhya VP said parents often encourage reading during the early years of schooling, but attitudes shift once children enter higher classes.

"When children reach higher levels, the focus is on academics. Their (the parent's) behaviour is driven by the reality of our competitive world," he told Bangalore Mirror. "However, reading only textbooks leads to the child developing a myopic view of the world," he added. He pointed out that school curriculums do attempt to expose students to literature and forms of storytelling. Students in secondary education, he noted, encounter works such as those of Kannada writer Poorna Chandra Tejaswi and plays like William Shakespeare's The Tempest. "One of the main objectives of a curriculum is to develop larger interests. For example, studying physics may instigate a student to read science fiction. What matters is the environment around children, created by both parents and teachers alike, that allows them to nurture that specific interest," he said. According to Niranjanaradhya, the larger issue lies in how education itself is increasingly viewed through the narrow lens of marks and examinations. "In today's scenario, the education system is being looked at with limited understanding, and has been reduced to marks and exams," he said. Referring to Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, he said intelligence cannot be measured solely through academic performance or IQ. Gardner's theory argues that individuals possess different forms of intelligence, including linguistic, musical and logical abilities among others. Niranjanaradhya urged parents to recognise and support children's natural interests rather than suppressing them in favour of academic performance.

Experts say this approach may be contributing to weaker long-term reading habits among children. Once reading becomes linked only to performance and assessment, many students abandon it after leaving school or college.

Hendricks noted that fiction also helps children develop concentration, patience and reflective thinking at a time when screen exposure and short-form digital content dominate children's attention spans. "Stories allow children to safely explore emotions such as fear, loss, loneliness, courage, friendship, conflicts and resilience, contributing to healthier emotional maturity over time," she said. She added that unrestricted reading also encourages independent thinking and communication skills. "Children who read diverse stories are often better at communication, problem-solving and understanding social differences. Unless content is clearly harmful or age-inappropriate, parents should guide rather than excessively restrict reading choices," she explained.

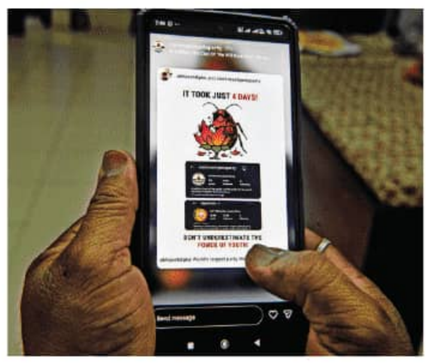
When asked, Niranjanaradhya also raised concerns about the declining role of public libraries and reading spaces. "There is a need to make access to libraries hassle free. The wide use of social media has made them redundant. A reading movement must be created to keep the reading culture alive — beginning from creating reading corners in schools. The books are now just locked in the cupboards," he said. "Encouraging children to read what genuinely interests them is often the first step towards building not only a strong reading habit, but also a more emotionally aware and compassionate individual," Hendricks said.

'Police took call to stop CJP event'

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Saturday said the police had independently decided to deny permission for the proposed event organised by an unknown group, Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), after assessing law and order and other relevant aspects. The minister was responding to questions from reporters regarding reports that police had denied permission for the CJP convention scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Bengaluru police on Friday cautioned the public against participating in or circulating social media messages related to a proposed "peaceful human chain" programme allegedly organised by the CJP Karnataka unit near Town Hall on May 24, stating that no permission had been granted for the event.

Reacting to the denial of permission, Parameshwara said, "They (police) examine the purpose for which such an event is being organised, who all are involved, and related aspects. Based on that assessment, the police decide whether to grant permission or not.



If they have denied permission, there must be some reasons behind it." The minister said police authorities independently evaluate all relevant factors before taking a decision on large gatherings and conventions. He indicated that law and order considerations remained the primary factor in granting or denying permission. The Home Minister's remarks came amid controversy surrounding the proposed CJP event and speculation over whether the organisers would be allowed to proceed with the convention. The X account of Cockroach Janata Party, a satirical digital outfit that emerged last week and took social media by storm, was withheld in India on Thursday.

Soon afterwards, another handle, "Cockroach is Back" appeared with the tagline "Cockroaches Don't Die". Responding to BJP leaders stating that they would challenge in court the withdrawal of the "Ladle Mashak" case, Parameshwara said: "That is left to them. We cannot advise them on that."

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to withdraw riot cases filed over the March 2022 violence at Ladle Mashak Dargah in Kalaburagi district, a move the BJP termed appeasement politics and said it would challenge in court.

On Cabinet reshuffle and Rajya Sabha polls, Home Minister G Parameshwara said the party leadership and high command would take decisions. He said there was nothing wrong with ministers and MLAs seeking Cabinet berths despite limited vacancies.

Parameshwara dismissed speculation over his own portfolio, saying he had "absolutely no disappointment" with the Home Department and was capable of handling any additional responsibility. **–PTI**

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Paw and order crisis

BBMP survey uncovers soaring canine population across Bengaluru, raising urgent concerns over safety, shelters, vaccinations, sterilisation and coexistence measures

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Bengaluru's streets are home to a staggering 2,79,335 stray dogs, according to a recent BBMP survey conducted across all wards in the city. The highest concentration is in Mahadevapura Zone, where KR Puram alone accounts for 38,075 street dogs and Mahadevapura adds another 23,292, taking the total to 61,367. Bommanahalli Zone follows closely with 37,733 street dogs, including 23,964 in Bengaluru South and 13,769 in Bommanahalli ward. According to statistics recently provided in the Legislative Assembly, Rajajinagar Zone records 22,998 strays, while Dasarahalli Zone has 21,122. Byatarayanapura and Yelahanka wards collectively account for 33,630 dogs, with Yelahanka hosting 10,252 and Byatarayanapura 23,378. East Zone wards include CV Raman Nagar (9,690), Sarvagnanagar (8,500), Shantinagar (6,351), and Shivajinagar (3,907). South Zone includes BTM Layout (6,185), Padmanabha Nagar (4,966), Chickpete (4,403), and Vijayanagar (6,774, combined from two counts of 3,415 and 3,359). West Zone records Malleshwaram (4,465), Gandhinagar (3,882), Mahalakshmi Layout (3,185), Govindaraj Nagar (5,385), and Chamarajpet (2,187).

Animal welfare activists stressed the need for compassion and humane treatment of these animals. "Street dogs are an integral part of the urban ecosystem. Sterilisation, vaccination and safe relocation should be prioritised over culling," said Kanya D, an animal rights activist. She added that educating citizens about coexisting safely with street dogs is critical.

Residents, meanwhile, emphasised safety measures to prevent dog bites. "While we respect and feed the strays, it is important to keep children away from areas with high dog concentrations and report aggressive dogs to authorities promptly," said Meera Rao, a resident of Rajajinagar.With over 2.7 lakh street dogs across the city, the BBMP faces a dual challenge: ensuring the welfare of these animals while safeguarding citizens, a balancing act that will require cooperation between civic authorities, activists and residents alike.

B'luru expands stray dog shelters following SC rehabilitation directives

Shelter Push

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is constructing stray dog shelters across all five city corporations under its jurisdiction, with space planned for around 2,600 dogs. The move follows Supreme Court directions on relocating stray dogs to designated shelters. Civic bodies are now accelerating construction work that began in December 2025.
Each corporation is setting up facilities for about 500 dogs, while the Bengaluru South zone has already opened a shelter at Bingipura housing 100 animals. NGOs will manage the shelters, provide food and veterinary care, while civic bodies will bear a monthly maintenance cost of 3,035 per dog and an additional 300 for transporting each animal from public spaces to the shelters. Officials estimate Bengaluru currently has nearly 2.79 lakh stray dogs.

Staff Crunch

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said shelters in the South and North zones are expected to be ready by the end of May, while facilities in the Central and East zones will open by the end of June, and the West zone within three months. However, animal welfare activists have raised concerns over alleged violations in the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, claiming some sterilisation surgeries are being conducted without mandatory approvals under the 2023 ABC Rules. Authorities also face a severe shortage of veterinary staff, with only 19 veterinarians and 16 paramedical staff currently working across the GBA limits. Officials said they are considering additional recruitment, including retired veterinarians.
Rao said euthanasia would be carried out as per law and Supreme Court guidelines.

Dowry claims: Constable's wife dies by suicide

The wife of a police constable attached to the HAL police station allegedly died by suicide following prolonged harassment linked to dowry demands and domestic abuse, police said on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Lakshmi Priya (26), who married Rajesh Aaradhya on May 11, 2023, at Sindoor Choultry in Mysuru. Rajesh Aaradhya is a police constable attached to the HAL police station.

According to a complaint filed by Lakshmi Priya's family, she was allegedly subjected to continuous mental and physical harassment by her husband, Rajesh Aaradhya, and his parents, Palaksharadhya and Bhagyamma, after the marriage. The complainant alleged that the accused pressured and tortured Lakshmi Priya, causing severe emotional distress.

Police said Lakshmi Priya had recently given birth and was staying at her parental home. On May 22, she sent her phone password to her younger sister via WhatsApp before becoming unreachable.

When contacted, Rajesh Aaradhya allegedly informed the complainant that Lakshmi Priya had died. Police said neighbours spoke positively about the family and no evidence of dowry harassment has surfaced so far. Investigators suspect a family dispute may have led to the suicide. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

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Pollution rises, but Board has not loosened its purse strings

With just 40% of its income spent in 2025-26, experts say effective and efficient use of funds by KSPCB is crucial to mitigating air, water pollution

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The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) spent less than 40% of its total income in 2025-26.According to a KSPCB report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the state pollution control board disbursed only Rs 122.64 crore out of the total Rs 316.51 crore collected under various heads, including consent fees, water and air analysis fees, environmental compensation charges and others.

Of the total expenditure, only 7% (Rs 9.06 crore) fell under the capital expenditure head, which includes investment in new infrastructure.

The remaining 93% was primarily spent on salaries and manpower, installation and operation of pollution monitoring systems, including Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (CAAQM) and Real Time Continuous Water Quality Monitoring (RTCWQM), environmental awareness programmes, legal and regulatory enforcement activities, and development and maintenance of laboratory and monitoring infrastructure.

The Board, in its report to the NGT, further clarified that the break-up of expenditure incurred by KSPCB over the past five years showed that the funds had been utilised broadly and consistently towards statutory and environmental functions.

However, experts said effective and efficient utilisation of the funds received by KSPCB is crucial to mitigating air and water pollution in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka.

Notably, KSPCB, in a report submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) last year, stated that its laboratories are functioning without several vital instruments and equipment required to measure pollution. Across its four laboratories in Bengaluru, Davangere, Hassan and Mysuru, a total of 592 instruments and pieces of equipment are required. However, only 383 are currently available, leaving a gap of 209. Of these unavailable instruments and equipment, 131 are mandatory.

Environmentalists alleged that while KSPCB collects money from industries and establishments in the form of consent fees, the Board still lacks the necessary instruments and technology to measure the total effluent generated by small-scale industries.

Thick dust and poor air quality reduce visibility as commuters navigate roads amid growing concerns over unchecked pollution levels

Environmentalists allege Board collects money from industries in form of consent fees, but it still lacks the necessary instruments and technology to measure the total effluent generated by small-scale industries

"KSPCB has no means to measure the amount of effluents being generated by small-scale industries or the amount of effluent being discharged to the drains. The Board should invest in procuring these instruments and technology given surplus income," said Dr Jacob Crasta, Former President - FKCCI, KASSIA, PIA, and Past Co-Chairman - ASSOCHAM (Southern Council).

According to KSPCB, the Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) mandated by CPCB currently tracks industrial environmental compliance among 17 highly polluting industries. Officials said the Board presently relies on random inspections to identify violations outside this category due to staff shortage.

Bangalore Mirror
Wanted: Lab instruments
Several state pollution control board laboratories running without vital equipment; 11 mandatory ones missing in Bengaluru

BM had reported on May 13 about several KSPCB labs working without mandatory equipment

"There is no real-time monitoring mechanism to measure effluents generated by industries outside the highly polluting category. Random inspections help identify violators, but manpower shortage remains a challenge for effective enforcement," a senior KSPCB official said.

Officials added that CPCB plans to gradually make OCEMS mandatory for more industries and sewage treatment plants across the country.

KSPCB's low fund utilisation has remained a recurring concern over the years. In 2023-24, the Board spent only Rs 72.63 crore out of its total income of Rs 357.89 crore. Similarly, in 2022-23, KSPCB utilised Rs 100.92 crore out of Rs 412.78 crore received under various heads.

Aadhaar not legitimate document to verify age, officials say

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Doddaballapur town. Officials conducting a raid at a marriage venue initially found documents showing the girl had already attained the legal age for marriage. But something did not add up. When officers cross-verified school records, the truth emerged that the girl was only 16 years old. Authorities now suspect that some families are deliberately using Aadhaar modifications as a circuitous route to evade child marriage laws.

Investigators believe illegal date-of-birth alterations may be happening through certain cyber centres or intermediaries offering unauthorised Aadhaar editing services.

A District Child Protection official said, "The trend is particularly dangerous because Aadhaar cards are increasingly being treated as convenient proof of age during marriages, despite not being the legally accepted primary document for age verification in such cases."

Officials clarified that birth certificates, school transfer certificates and SSLC marks cards remain the only recognised documents for confirming age in child marriage investigations. However, in many temples, community halls and marriage venues, organisers often verify only Aadhaar cards before allowing ceremonies to proceed.

Authorities fear that loophole is now being exploited. Last year, FIRs were filed in 24 child marriage cases across the district. This year, officials say they have already prevented 24 attempted child marriages and registered four criminal cases. But the latest cases have exposed how technology itself may now be helping offenders stay one step ahead of the system.

The District Child Protection Unit has now launched a fresh awareness campaign targeting temples, kalyana mantapas and event organisers, warning them against accepting Aadhaar cards alone as proof of age. Authorities have also warned of strict action against anyone found illegally tampering with Aadhaar records. Officials said cases involving fraudulent identity modifications could lead to criminal proceedings through Tahsildars and other enforcement agencies.

Mismatch: Civic agency makes yet another wrong posting decision

Electrical diploma holder promoted to civil engineering post, raising serious concerns over public infrastructure safety

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The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) administration wing has once again shown that it is unable to choose a right candidate for its posts. The authorities concerned even violated the norms while taking this decision as they promoted a junior engineer to assistant executive engineer. On top of that, a junior engineer from the electrical department has been promoted to assistant executive engineer of the Information Technology Department.

The person in question, M Satish Kumar, has a Diploma in Electrical & Electronics, but is now posted as an assistant executive engineer (civil) at Chamarajpet Sub-Division.

Former Leader of Ruling Party in BBMP Council Ramesh NR had also sent a detailed letter to the Special Commissioner (Administration), GBA. "A person needs to work five years as a junior engineer and two years as an in-charge assistant engineer to get promoted as an assistant engineer. An assistant engineer, as per the norms, is eligible for promotion as an assistant executive engineer only after working three to five years. Even a layperson knows that a somebody who holds a diploma in electrical/electronics has nothing to do with civil engineering," Ramesh said.

Nothing learnt from past civic project failures it seems; experts question accountability and governance standards in key engineering appointments

Vinod Jacob, urban strategist, said the need of the hour is proper job description and qualification for government jobs. "These are public works and safety is very important in public infrastructure. This is not acceptable and should not be allowed in any department in public works. We have the best education system in Bengaluru and we need to have proper qualified engineers who should be recruited for government jobs," Vinod Jacob said.

In the past, the city has suffered due to such wrong choices. When the solid waste management department took up the assignment to rejuvenate Srigandha Kaval Lake instead of the lakes department more than five years ago, the result was disastrous. The lake looks like a bowl with no water flowing into it. Another instance was when an electric crematorium at Hegde Nagar of Thanisandra ward was constructed by the then BBMP Lakes Department. The work cost around Rs 4 crore, but the crematorium is yet to become operational even after more than five years.

THE SUNDAY READ

Sugar, flour, guts

Bengaluru has a new kind of startup story, and it smells a lot better than a server room

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Bengaluru has a lot of titles to its name, but the city of startups sits closest to the heart. Mostly that belongs to tech, to pitch decks and funding rounds and co-working spaces. But walk the city's busier streets and you will notice another kind of startup doing its thing quietly. A folding table near an apartment gate. A cart under a tree outside a college. A small shopfront that wasn't there six months ago. No investors, no press releases. Just someone who decided that waiting for the right time was a half-baked plan and went ahead anyway.

Bengaluru's baking scene has been sitting like dough in a warm kitchen for a while now, and it has well and truly risen. We went looking for the bakers who weren't just riding a wave but building something with real shelf life. People who went into this carrying a newborn, going it completely alone, or fitting it around full-time jobs and night shifts. Each one backed not by venture capital, but by something harder to source: the nerve to just go and try. We found five of them.

The hundred-box bet

MARIA KRITHIKA, Cocoa Comaa, Koramangala 5th Block.

Maria Krithika was 20 when she bought her first oven with a Rs 7,000 internship stipend. She grew up in a complicated adopted family with no birth parents and no financial cushion, so the habit of figuring things out alone had been baked into her long before she ever turned on a mixer. She started Cocoa Comaa from her room in Koramangala, posted one photo on a bad phone with worse lighting, and shared it with friends. A mutual contact placed the first order. That person still orders from her today.

Before she had even thought of it as a business, Maria went to Chickpet and bought 100 packaging boxes. If she could sell all 100, she would take this seriously. She sold all 100. First month: Rs 24,000, logged order by order in a notebook. She later ran one of the city's first dessert carts, alone and without a mentor, and eventually moved into a proper bakery. Today people travel across Bengaluru, and occasionally from outside it, specifically for her brownies. That kind of loyalty, she will tell you, is not something you can manufacture.

60 cookies and a lot of nerve

SIVA PRIYA M, Celandine Bakehouse, Indiranagar.

10,000-plus cookies from 80 square feet.

Maria's leap was built slowly. Siva Priya's happened on a Saturday evening on Church Street, when she showed up with 60 cookies and, in her own words, was terrified. She was 31, had no professional training, and had been preparing for her GMAT. What she also had was a very specific frustration: she could not find a proper New York-style cookie anywhere in India. So, she made her own. Everything sold in two to three hours. People took a bite, walked away, and came back. She went home, baked through the night, and returned the next morning. Sold out again. The GMAT prep stopped.

What followed was a commitment that is hard to explain to someone who hasn't felt it. She flew to the US, went coast to coast tasting cookies and talking to bakers, came back with better recipes and total conviction. In August 2025, she opened Celandine Bakehouse in Indiranagar: 80 square feet, one baker, French butter, Belgian chocolate, and no shortcuts. Profitable from day one. Over 10,000 cookies sold since, shipped across India and carried overseas by customers who couldn't leave without them.

"The moment we have to compromise on quality is the moment we stop."

PRAMOD AND RASHMI, My Mom's Tiramisu, Kalyanagar Street.

If those two are solo stories, Pramod and Rashmi in Kalyanagar prove that sometimes the batter is better when two people are stirring. 31, both on IT night shifts, baby four months old. They started My Mom's Tiramisu with 10 boxes, a stool, and a thermocol cooler that cost Rs 10. The name came from imagining their son years from now, saying with pride: this is my mom's tiramisu. They built the whole brand around that image.

The tiramisu was eggless, alcohol-free, and kept deliberately low on sugar. In a city full of desserts that leave you slightly overwhelmed, that restraint became their biggest differentiator. Word spread the old way. Today they sell over 300 boxes in a couple of hours every weekend. The Rs 10 cooler is long gone, but the stall is very much still there.

Building it with a baby on board

SOWNDARYA, Fudge A Doo, Whitefield.

Evening cart to gaming lounge collab, all since 2024. In Whitefield, Sowndarya started Fudge A Doo in 2024 with a fresh baking diploma, a one-year-old at home, and an evening dessert cart as her opening move. Her husband handles the business end around his IT job. Together they grew the cart into school stalls, college events, and a 350-piece Diwali hamper order completed in a week. "That gave us immense confidence," she says. "It proved we could handle scale." The menu mixes

classics with whatever is new and interesting, because she sees no reason why a cart in Whitefield cannot offer what a café in Indiranagar does, just without the markup. Like Pramod and Rashmi, Sowndarya found that having a family to build for was not a weight. It was fuel.

The teacher who bakes it, and the son who sells it

ASHA SAPARIYA (46) and her son MEETH P SAPARIYA (22), Sahajanand Foodie's Zone.

She bakes it. He takes it to the streets. Between the two of them, Church Street never stood a chance. And then there is Asha Sapariya, 46, who built this business with her son and without a fuss. A full-time schoolteacher, mother, and founder of Sahajanand Foodie's Zone, Asha bakes. Her 22-year-old son Meeth P Sapariya sells. He is the one who takes their brownies to MG Road, walks up to strangers, and makes the case, not with free samples or flashy packaging, but with fairly priced slices and the quiet confidence that comes from knowing the product is genuinely good.

There is something worth pausing on here. A mother who wakes up, teaches a full day, comes home, and bakes. A son who takes what she has made and goes out into the city to find it a home. No paid staff, no delivery app, just the two of them running a small cloud kitchen like it is a family matter, because it is.

The strangers who stopped on MG Road became regulars. Her Chocolate Walnut Brownie, 100% eggless and baked fresh daily, is now one of those things people in Bengaluru's home-bakery circle just know about and keep coming back to. Asha is not particularly dramatic about how they got here. "Building trust," she says, "came through consistent quality, hygiene, and being genuinely present for customers." Meeth would probably say the same, standing on a pavement somewhere, box in hand, doing exactly that.

Bengaluru is called a city of startups because it takes people seriously when they show up with something good. These five bakers didn't wait to be fully ready. They put out what they had and asked for an honest response. Bengaluru, as it turns out, has excellent taste.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

TINY POLLINATOR DELIGHT

Our reader shares a delightful image of a Purple-rumped Sunbird perched gracefully on a blooming bottle brush tree, captured from a terrace garden. A frequent visitor to the tree, the tiny bird flits effortlessly from branch to branch, offering a mesmerising visual treat. Known for their remarkable hovering ability, Purple-rumped Sunbirds play a crucial role as pollinators, contributing significantly to the balance and health of the ecosystem they inhabit.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Jayanagar's charm fades under garbage and encroachment crisis

Residents of Jayanagar's 4th T Block raise alarm over worsening sanitation, delayed waste clearance, and dangerous pedestrian encroachments

Long regarded as one of Bengaluru's most beautiful and well-planned residential neighbourhoods, parts of Jayanagar are now witnessing growing concerns over garbage accumulation, unhygienic surroundings, and civic neglect. Known for its tree-lined roads, organised layouts, and peaceful residential atmosphere, the locality is slowly losing its charm as residents struggle with mounting waste, pest infestations, and encroached public spaces.

Residents said the problem has persisted for over eight months, particularly in Jayanagar's 4th T Block and areas around 35th, 36th, and 39th Cross. Garbage bags dumped outside houses often remain unattended for long hours and are torn open by stray dogs and rats, scattering waste across roads and footpaths. What was once considered one of the city's cleanest and most sought-after residential areas is now facing increasing sanitation concerns.

Locals fear the deteriorating conditions pose serious health risks. The accumulation of waste has reportedly led to a rise in mosquitoes, rodents, and foul odours in several streets, worrying residents about the possible spread of diseases. "It is disappointing to see an area like Jayanagar facing such issues despite being one of Bengaluru's prime localities. People are falling sick frequently because of the unhealthy surroundings, but complaints are not being addressed properly," said a resident.

Residents alleged that they have submitted multiple complaints to ward marshals, health inspectors, garbage supervisors, and solid waste management officials. Written complaints along with photographs were reportedly shared with authorities seeking immediate intervention, but locals claimed that effective action is still lacking.

Many residents also blamed irregular garbage collection services for worsening the issue. According to them, waste collection vehicles often fail to clear garbage on time, resulting in piles of waste remaining on roadsides for several days. "Apart from sanitation concerns, residents have also highlighted the growing issue of footpath encroachment in parts of 4th

T Block. Footpaths meant for pedestrians are reportedly occupied by fruit vendors, vegetable stalls, coconut sellers, and illegally parked vehicles, forcing pedestrians to walk on busy roads amid traffic," said Anand Kumar, a resident.

Senior citizens, children, and daily commuters are among the worst affected as navigating the area has become increasingly difficult and unsafe. Residents have urged the Bengaluru South City Corporation to improve waste management services and take strict action against encroachments before the situation worsens further. They also demanded regular monitoring and stricter accountability from civic officials responsible for maintaining cleanliness in the area. **— BMB**

Waste dumped near residential areas and blocked footpaths reflect worsening civic neglect troubling senior citizens and daily commuters alike

DID YOU KNOW?

A Neanderthal who lived nearly 59,000 years ago may have undergone the world's earliest known dental surgery, according to a new study published in the journal PLOS One. Researchers discovered a molar from Chagyrskaya Cave in southern Siberia showing clear signs of deliberate drilling to remove severe tooth decay and ease pain. The tooth contained a deep cavity reaching the pulp chamber, where nerves and blood vessels are located. Scientists said microscopic grooves and the shape of the hole indicated intentional modification using a small stone tool rather than accidental damage. Evidence of regular wear on the tooth also suggested the individual survived for a considerable time after the procedure. Researchers recreated the marks by drilling modern human teeth using jasper stone tools similar to those found at the cave. The findings suggest Neanderthals possessed advanced cognitive abilities, including planning, fine motor skills and medical understanding. Until now, the oldest known evidence of dental surgery dated back about 14,000 years in Homo sapiens. Scientists said the painful procedure, performed without anesthesia, reflected remarkable endurance and technical skill among Neanderthals. **— Reuters**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Attempt to malign force's image': Army on press conference video with 'men in uniform'

The Claim: Viral press conference video portrayed men in Army uniforms alleging misconduct, drawing political attention and widespread circulation on social media platforms.
Fact: The Indian Army clarified three individuals were dismissed for indiscipline, while another is a deserter facing disciplinary proceedings and spreading misleading narratives.

The Army on Friday took strong exception to a video circulating on social media that shows some men in military uniform at a press conference, and said three of those individuals were dismissed from service on grounds of "indiscipline and unsoldierly conduct". In a statement issued on its X handle, the Army said the press conference video is being circulated across media and social media platforms in an "attempt to malign" its image.

Referring to the persons seen in the video, apart from two political leaders, the Army said the "fourth individual" is a "deserter" and disciplinary proceedings are underway against him in both military and civil courts. The press conference was held at the Press Club of India here on Thursday, in which two opposition Rajya Sabha MPs Manoj Jha and Sanjay Singh interacted with reporters.

The purported visuals of the presser circulating on social media have stirred a row and drawn a sharp reaction from the Army. In the post, the Army cautioned netizens against falling for any rumours, using the hashtags "#FakeAlert #Beware". A photo used in the Army's post shows two men in uniform sitting alongside Jha and Singh. The image carries two digital stamps on it with the words "false" and "misleading". The Army did not name any political leader in the post. "A press conference video is being circulated across media and social media platforms in an attempt to malign the image of the Indian Army," the force said.

"It is reiterated that the individuals seen in the video, namely Chandu Chavan, Harendra Yadav and P Narender, were dismissed from service on grounds of indiscipline and unsoldierly conduct," the Army said.

It added that the fourth individual, Shankar Singh Gujjar, is a "deserter" and disciplinary proceedings are underway against him in both military and civil courts. "These individuals are deliberately spreading fake, malicious and misleading narratives on social media to divert attention from their own misconduct and dismissal from service. "Citizens are advised not to fall prey to such propaganda and to remain vigilant against misinformation," the Army said. **— ET Online**

Josh Inglis, Abdul Samad help Lucknow pile up 196 despite regular blows to batting order

Punjab cruises along in competitive chase

1. Punjab Kings' Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer in action; 2. LSG batter Josh inglis plays a shot

Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer made the chase look easy for Punjab Kings after Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) put up a competitive total of 196/6 in their final IPL 2026 league game clash, riding on key contributions from Josh Inglis and Abdul Samad despite regular breakthroughs from the Punjab bowling attack.

After being asked to bat, Lucknow got off to a flying start as opener Josh Inglis took on PBKS pacer Arshdeep Singh, smashing 16 runs in the opening over.However, the momentum shifted immediately in the next over when Azmatullah Omarzai dismissed Arshin Kulkarni for a golden duck.

In the following over, Marco Jansen struck as he clean bowled Nicholas Pooran for just two runs, leaving LSG struggling at 20/2.The innings then saw a recovery in the fifth over as Ayush Badoni attacked Marco Jansen, scoring 18 runs off the over to take LSG to 42/2. He continued the aggressive approach in the next over, hitting Omarzai for 22 runs. Despite the late surge, Lucknow ended the powerplay at 66/2 after losing two quick wickets early on.During the fourth ball of the seventh over, Yuzvendra Chahal provided the breakthrough by dismissing Ayush Badoni, who walked back after a blistering 43 off 18 balls, hitting five fours and three sixes. Following Badoni's departure, skipper Rishabh Pant and opener Josh Inglis continued to keep the scoreboard moving with regular boundaries as the hosts reached 100/3 at the end of 10 overs.In the 14th over, Inglis brought up his half-century in 28 deliveries. However, Chahal struck again to break the 65-run partnership between Pant and Inglis, removing the LSG captain for 26 off 22 balls, an innings featuring three fours. At that stage, Lucknow were 134/4.Runs continued to flow after Pant's dismissal as Lucknow made 157/4 in 16 overs.However, on the final delivery of the 17th over, all-rounder Shashank Singh claimed the crucial wicket of opener Josh Inglis, who departed after a well-compiled 72 off 44 balls, an innings laced with nine fours and two sixes. At that stage, the Super Giants were 169/5.In the following over, Jansen got his second wicket as he removed Mukul Choudhary for one.During the final over, Arshdeep Singh conceded 17 runs as LSG posted a competitive total of 196/6. Abdul Samad remained unbeaten on a quick-fire 37 off 20 balls, smashing three fours and as many sixes. For Punjab Kings, Yuzvendra Chahal (2/25), Marco Jansen (2/33), Azmatullah Omarzai (1/29) and Shashank Singh (1/29) were among the wicket-takers. **–ANI**

Today's battle

Mumbai Indians
VS
Rajasthan Royals
3.30 PM | Mumbai

Kolkata Knight Riders
VS
Delhi Capitals
7.30 PM | Kolkata

'Made it easier since I wasn't playing': Rachin says stint offered more than just T20 lessons

As New Zealand prepare for a landmark first-ever men's Test against Ireland later this month, Rachin Ravindra believes a brief return home after leaving the IPL early has helped him mentally and physically reset ahead of a demanding red-ball tour.

New Zealand departed for Ireland on Saturday for the one-off four-day Test from May 27-30 before beginning a three-match Test series against England.

Ravindra left the Kolkata Knight Riders camp before the conclusion of IPL 2026 after finding limited opportunities in the playing XI. However, the left-hander said KKR were supportive of his decision to head back early and prepare for national duty.

Rachin Ravindra at a practice session

"I mean KKR were very welcoming and understanding of the situation. Obviously, the way it was going, I wasn't playing. The decision was spoken to the CEO and the coach about potentially coming home for a refresh and obviously not knowing I'd be home until... Well, I wouldn't be home until late August because of what's to come," Ravindra was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"So, really awesome from them to be able to say, go home, refresh, do a bit of training and what you need before joining the boys in Ireland. Because there was always going to be a little bit of an overlap. It made it easier since I wasn't playing. It's a great little refresh. We spend so much time away from home and even four or five days at home, which I've had, is fantastic," he added.

Despite spending most of the IPL season on the sidelines, Ravindra insisted he does not feel short of match preparation ahead of the UK tour.

"I haven't played a game in a little while, and sort of obviously running the drinks in the IPL and getting opportunities to train and talk to guys has been great. But to be honest, I don't really feel too out of match practice. I think it was a very, very hectic schedule beforehand," he said.

Ravindra also highlighted how his IPL experience provided valuable learning opportunities beyond the T20 format itself, particularly through conversations with experienced international cricketers and coaches. **–IANS**

RCB's Bethell ruled out due to finger injury, to return home

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting all-rounder Jacob Bethell has been ruled out of the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 after sustaining an injury to his left ring finger during the match against Punjab Kings and will now return home for further assessment.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed the development in an official statement, saying that they will also assess the extent of injury picked up by Bethell and whether he will be fit in time to play England's first Test against New Zealand, to be played on June 4 at Lord's.

"The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has agreed with Royal Challengers Bangalore that top-order batter Jacob Bethell will return to the UK after sustaining a left ring finger injury while playing in the Indian Premier League.

"He will be fully assessed and monitored by the England Men's medical team on his return to determine his availability for selection for the Rothesay first Test against New Zealand at Lord's, starting on Thursday 4 June," it further said.

Bethell, who had partnered Virat Kohli at the top of the order in recent weeks in Phil Salt's absence, had struggled for runs – amassing only 96 runs in seven games. He also sat out of RCB's last league stage match against Sunrisers Hyderabad due to the same injury, as Venkatesh Iyer opened the batting in his absence. **–IANS**

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Minimum wages of labourers hiked by 60%: Minister Lad

The Karnataka government has increased the minimum wages by 60 per cent, which will ensure labourers in Bengaluru get a minimum of Rs 23,376 per month, according to a state government notification.

The notification said that the skilled workers would be entitled for Rs 31,114 per month in the state capital.

Sharing the information, Labour Minister Santosh Lad on Saturday described the move as the fulfilment of a long-pending demand of the labour community across Karnataka.

The revised rates in other parts of Karnataka would be between Rs 19,300 and Rs 21.251 per month.

The minister said the revised wage notification would provide economic security to workers in the unorganised sector as well as employees in specified sectors across the state, while also bringing lakhs of workers under a unified framework for the first time.

"Our government has issued a notification increasing the minimum wages of workers by 60 per cent.

Through this, our government has fulfilled a long-pending demand of the labouring community in the state," Lad said in a post on 'X'. **PTI**

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I, Vanshika Jiten Sukhrani, R/O of B1101, Oak Wing, Adarsh Greens, Kogilu, Bangalore - 560064 has changed my name to Vanshika Sukhrani for all purposes.

I, Martina Mary Martin D/o Leon Anthony D Monte R/o No 80, G 1, Bhanu Pride Apartment, Kacharakanahalli, St Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru 560084. Have Changed My Name to Martina Mary D Monte for All Purposes.

I, Akshitha Venkat Babu, w/o Abhishek Bilithalu Manjunath, R/o No-33 3rd Cross Govinyakanahalli 2nd Stage Kumaraswamy Layout Bengaluru-560078 Have Changed my name to Akshitha for all Purposes.

I, SHANKAR P, residing at # 305, Muthyalamma Temple Street, Dommasandra, Anekal, Bengaluru – 562125, have changed my name to SHANKARAPPA P vide affidavit dated 23.05.2026 before notary V. Anjanappa, B'lore

I, Aijaz Pasha, s/o Mohammed Ameer, R/o No-A831 3rd Floor 2nd Stage BDA Layout, Austin Town, Bengaluru-560047 Have Changed my name to Mohammed Aijaz Ahmed for all Purposes.

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STARSHIP SOARS

SpaceX's upgraded Starship V3 blasts off in debut test flight from Texas

SpaceX launched its 12th Starship on an uncrewed test flight from Texas on Friday, in a high-stakes trial run of major upgrades to its next-generation spacecraft as Elon Musk's rocket company nears a record-breaking public listing.

The debut flight of Starship V3 - designed to enable more frequent Starlink satellite launches and to send future NASA missions to the moon - represents a key milestone for the vehicle following months of testing delays. The outcome could also sway investor confidence ahead of SpaceX's initial public offering next month, expected to be the largest in history.

Starship, which SpaceX has spent more than $15 billion developing as a fully reusable spacecraft, is critical to Musk's goals of cutting launch costs, expanding his Starlink business and pursuing ambitions ranging from deep-space exploration to orbital data centers - all factored into his targeted $1.75 trillion IPO valuation.

A successful test flight would reinforce SpaceX's case that Starship, the world's largest and most powerful rocket ever flown, is nearing commercial readiness after years of explosive setbacks and development delays.

The towering vehicle, consisting of the upper-stage Starship astronaut vessel stacked atop its Super Heavy booster rocket, blasted off on Friday evening from SpaceX facilities in Starbase, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico near Brownsville.

One of the principal improvements to the Super Heavy booster is a revamping of its 33 Raptor engines to produce greater thrust from a design that weighs much less; its propulsion system is tweaked for long-duration missions

The launch marked SpaceX's 12th Starship test flight since 2023 and the first ever for the V3 iteration of both the cruise vessel and its Super Heavy booster - powered by the company's new Raptor 3 engines - as well as the first blast-off from a new launch pad designed for the more powerful rocket.

Controlled descent into ocean

SpaceX has said it would not attempt a return landing or recovery of either the booster or the Starship upper stage at the end of Friday's test launch, even if all else goes as planned.

But test objectives include execution of several return-flight maneuvers by the lower-stage rocket and Starship itself, including controlled landing burns before each vehicle splashes down into the sea.

The Super Heavy is targeting a splashdown zone in the Gulf of Mexico about seven minutes after blast-off. Meanwhile, Starship is expected to cruise on in suborbital space before making its own "exciting landing!" as SpaceX calls it, in the Indian Ocean about an hour later.

While Starship V3 is in space, plans call for its payload dispenser to release a clutch of 20 mock Starlink satellites one by one, plus two actual satellites deployed along Starship's flight trajectory to scan the spacecraft's heat shield and transmit data to operators on the ground during descent.

About 20 minutes after the payload deployment demonstration, a reignition of Starship's Raptor engine in space is scheduled.

For Starship's fiery, transonic reentry through Earth's atmosphere, a single heat shield tile has been intentionally removed to measure differences in aerodynamic stress exerted on adjacent tiles. Several other tiles have been painted white to serve as imaging targets in the test.

The rocket's heat shield represents one of SpaceX's most difficult development challenges with Starship, as it tries to develop a super-durable protective surface that requires little or no refurbishment after each flight.

The V3 features a host of upgrades designed to perfect the vehicle's functionality for missions beyond the low-Earth orbit realm of SpaceX's current workhorse launch system, consisting of a Falcon 9 or Falcon Heavy rocket booster with a Dragon capsule. **Reuters**

Wearable health devices turn lifeline for senior citizens living alone

In an era of nuclear families and migration-driven lifestyles, wearable biosensors, smartwatches, and remote health-monitoring devices are emerging as a lifeline for elderly parents living alone, enabling families to track their health remotely and helping doctors intervene early during medical emergencies.

Doctors say the demand for such devices has grown sharply in recent years, particularly after the Covid pandemic underscored the importance of continuous monitoring and timely medical assistance for senior citizens suffering from chronic illnesses.

According to estimates, India currently has around 153 million people above the age of 60, a figure projected to rise to 230 million by 2036 and 347 million by 2050.

Age-related ailments such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, dementia, arthritis, and depression are also on the rise, increasing the need for regular health supervision.

Dr Neeraj Nischal, professor in the Department of Medicine at AIIMS, Delhi, said technology is no longer merely about convenience but is increasingly becoming a vital support system for elderly individuals living alone.

"While no device can replace human companionship and emotional care, wearable biosensors and remote health-monitoring technologies are helping bridge the gap created by migration and nuclear family structures," he said.

Nischal noted that such technologies are becoming particularly relevant in urban India, where many elderly couples or individuals live independently while their children work in different cities or abroad.

He said wearable monitoring devices can significantly reduce complications among elderly patients with chronic illnesses.

"For conditions such as heart diseases, COPD, diabetes, and hypertension, continuous monitoring can detect early warning signs before they progress into major emergencies.

"Sudden falls in oxygen saturation, irregular heart rhythms, or abnormal blood pressure patterns can be identified early, allowing prompt medical intervention and potentially saving lives," he explained. **PTI**

BITS & BYTES

DEEPSEEK'S PRICE CUT

Chinese artificial intelligence startup DeepSeek will make permanent a 75% price cut on its flagship V4-Pro artificial intelligence model, keeping prices at a quarter of their original level, the company said on Saturday. DeepSeek did not disclose whether the permanent price cut was due to increased supply of Huawei's Ascend 950 chips, which it used to maximise V4's performance.

The company cut V4-Pro API costs to between 0.025 and 6 yuan per million tokens (about $0.0035 to $0.83) depending on usage type, from 0.1 to 24 yuan previously, the statement said. **Reuters**

HIGH-ENERGY ZONE

India has moved a significant step closer towards long-term energy self-sufficiency after its indigenously developed 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu achieved criticality -- a stage at which a nuclear reactor attains a controlled and self-sustaining chain reaction for the first time, a report said.

According to an analysis by Business Report, the milestone marks India's entry into an elite group of nations possessing advanced fast breeder reactor technology, with Russia being the only other country operating commercial fast breeder reactors.

It is seen as a breakthrough in India's three-stage nuclear programme envisioned by scientist Homi Bhabha. **IANS**

APPLE PHISHING ALERT

The National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) has warned of a phishing campaign impersonating Apple tech support to target iPhone users whose devices have been lost or stolen, officials said on Saturday.

The I4C, under the Union Home Ministry, said fraudsters posing as Apple Support are sending deceptive messages containing phishing links to exploit the victims' urgency to locate their device. "These messages resemble legitimate 'Find My iPhone' or Apple Support notifications and redirect users to counterfeit Apple login pages designed to steal Apple ID credentials and OTP," the advisory said. **PTI**

HEALTH TIP: Ingredients like dry ginger (sukku) and tulsi are known for their anti-inflammatory properties and can help calm a sore throat naturally

Sunscreen must be applied in sufficient quantity, approximately a teaspoon for the face and neck

BangaloreMirror | 13
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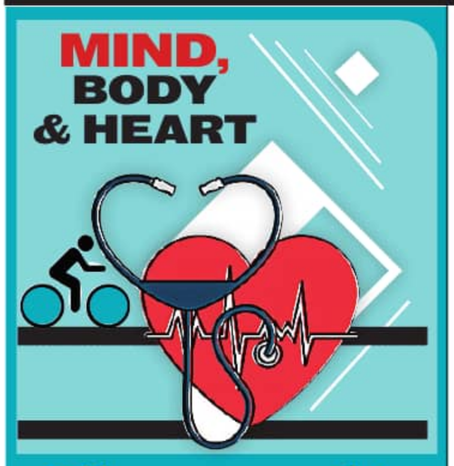

All you need to know about...

Long-distance friendship

True friend
There's that one person who has always been there for you. Who gets all your jokes. Who starts laughing before you've even finished your sentence. Someone who gets emotional and mad on your behalf when life treats you unfairly. Someone who feels like you are one of the best things that ever happened to them, and for whom you feel the same. Here is how you can deal with distance or change in such friendships.

Stay in touch
Let's start with the only thing that truly makes this work: communication. That doesn't mean texting every single day or sharing every update the moment it happens. It means showing up when it matters, when it doesn't, when you just feel like saying hi or sending a meme they'd love. Distance makes it easy to let months go by. But if you can call them, video call them, or even send a voice note while cooking dinner or walking to the metro, it counts.

Talk it out
Talk about all the things you would do if you were still living across the street. Be as mundane or magical as you need to be. Share your heartbreaks, your chaos, your weird little updates. Make time, not because you have to, but because you want to. Over time, these moments stitch your friendship back together again and again.
And when you finally meet them after months or even years, it won't feel like you ever left. That's the thing about real friendships. With the right amount of care, they don't fade.

— Femina

NUTS WITH A TWIST

Try these unique recipes with walnuts and pecan nuts

PECAN STUFFED DAHI KEBABS

INGREDIENTS
- 20 pecans
- 1 green chilli, chopped
- 2 tsp finely-chopped ginger (divided usage)
- 2 to 3 tbsp fresh pomegranate arils
- ¼ tsp red chilli powder
- 1 tsp chaat masala (divided usage)
- 1 tbsp + 2 cups hung yoghurt (dahi)
- ¼ tsp garam masala powder
- A pinch of dry fenugreek leaves (kasuri methi) powder
- Salt to taste
- ¼ cup cornflour + extra for dusting
- Oil for shallow-frying + extra for greasing
- Onion rings, to serve
- Green chutney to serve

METHOD
- Reserve eight pecans and finely chop the remaining.
- To make the pecan stuffing, transfer the chopped pecans to a bowl, and add the chopped green chilli, one teaspoon of the chopped ginger, three-fourth teaspoon of the chaat masala, the pomegranate arils and red chilli powder, and mix well. Add one tablespoon of the hung yoghurt, and mix well. Set aside.
- Transfer the remaining two cups of yoghurt to another bowl, add the remaining chopped ginger, garam masala powder, the remaining chaat masala, and dried fenugreek leaves powder. Add salt and corn flour and mix well.
- To make the kebabs, grease your palms with oil, and divide the yoghurt mixture into eight equal portions. Stuff each with a little pecan stuffing. Shape again into balls, roll them in corn flour, and flatten slightly. Place one pecan on each kebab and press lightly.
- Heat oil for shallow frying in a non-stick pan. Fry the kebabs on both sides until golden brown and crisp. Drain on absorbent paper.
- Serve the kebabs hot with onion rings and green chutney.

TADKA PECAN RAITA

INGREDIENTS
- 10 to 15 pecans, blanched
- 2 cups chilled yoghurt
- 1 tbsp oil
- ½ tsp mustard seeds
- A pinch of asafoetida (hing)
- 2 dried red chillies, stemmed and broken
- 10 to 12 curry leaves
- Black salt to taste
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander leaves
- Fresh coriander leaves to garnish

METHOD
- Reserve four to five pecans to garnish and roughly chop the remaining ones.
- Place the yoghurt in a bowl.
- To prepare the tempering, heat the oil in a small nonstick pan. Add the mustard seeds and, once they start to splutter, add the asafoetida, dried red chillies, and curry leaves. Cook for 30 seconds.
- Add the prepared tempering to the yoghurt, along with the chopped pecans, and black salt, and mix well.
- Add the chopped coriander leaves and mix well.
- Transfer to a serving bowl, garnish with the reserved whole pecans, and coriander leaves, and serve chilled.

Recipes and images by American Pecans for Femina

TACOS WITH WALNUT MEAT

INGREDIENTS
- Taco shells

For the guacamole:
- 2 avocados
- 1 tomato, diced
- 2 cloves garlic
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of pepper
- Chilli flakes (optional)
- 2 tbsp yoghurt
- ½ lemon

For the tomato filling:
- 4 tomatoes
- 1 onion
- Handful of parsley
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- 1 tbsp olive oil

For the yoghurt dip:
- 200 g yoghurt
- Freshly-ground pepper to taste

For the walnut meat:
- 350 g walnuts
- 3 large mushrooms, quartered
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- ½ tbsp oregano
- Pinch of cumin seeds
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste

METHOD
- To prepare the guacamole, mash the avocados with a fork in a bowl. Add the diced tomato and the crushed garlic, and season with salt and pepper to taste, as well as the chilli flakes, if using. Stir in the two tablespoons of yoghurt and the juice of half a lemon. Set the guacamole aside.
- To prepare the tomato filling, dice the four tomatoes and the onion into another bowl. Finely chop the parsley and add to the bowl along with the salt and pepper and the olive oil. Mix well and set the tomato filling aside to be infused with the flavours.
- To prepare the yoghurt dip, season the yoghurt with freshly-ground pepper.
- To prepare the walnut meat, combine the walnuts, quartered mushrooms, tomato puree, maple syrup, cumin seeds, oregano and salt and pepper in a bowl. Mix together using a blender, taking care to not overmix – we're looking for a grainy texture. Without adding oil, fry the mixture in a pan over a medium flame for approximately five minutes.
- To assemble the tacos, fill the taco shells with the prepared guacamole, tomato filling, yoghurt dip and walnut meat and serve immediately.

Recipe and image by California Walnuts, Femina

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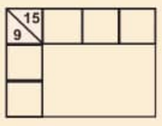
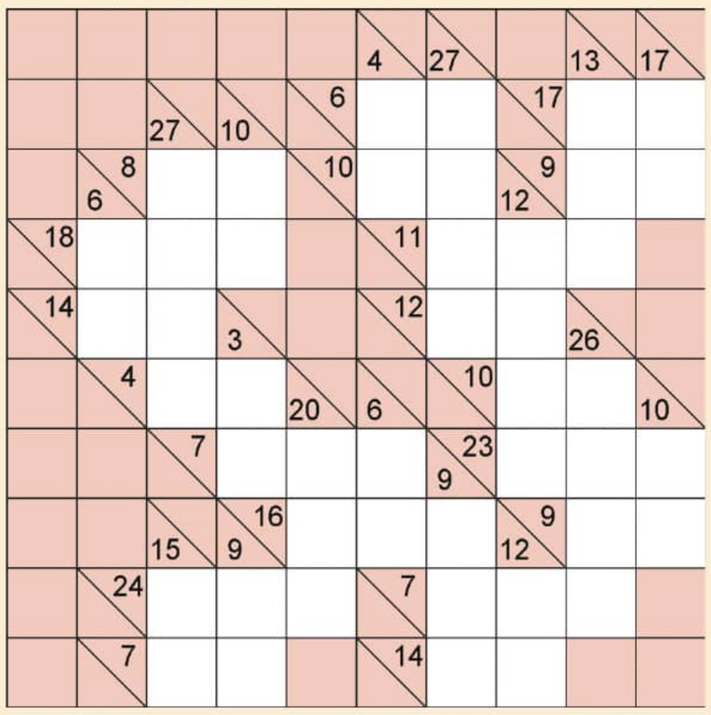
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

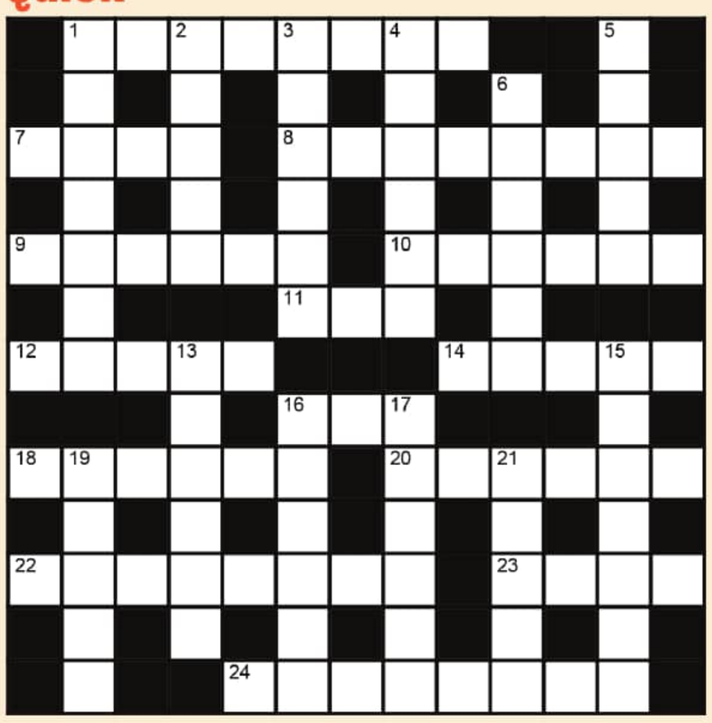
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Famous South African city (4,4)
7 Chew on (4)
8 Keep in good conditon (8)
9 Reddish brown (6)
10 Trekking (6)
11 Make ____ : discern or understand? (3)
12 The upper ___ : the elite? (5)
14 Farewell (5)
16 Tax deducted at source, in short (3)
18 P in BBMP (6)
20 Maintained (6)
22 Catalogue or inventory? (8)
23 Litigated (4)
24 Exercising weight (4-4)

DOWN

1 Overcome (7)
2 Least valuable chess pieces (5)
3 Marinara ingredient (6)
4 Arsenal legend Ian ___ (6)
5 Kingly rule (5)
6 Added fuel to (a fire) (6)
13 Strikes or hits; chastises? (6)
15 Source of fuel (3,4)
16 Telangana's tongue? (6)
17 Magnificent (6)
19 Ghanaian capital (5)
21 Hurry (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS N

VSFM JKQGXV FHVJ DM XSSI QG JKMFVMPNMV, MPVM JKMUM WSHPI DM GS FMOVHUM BKMUMDC JS POC SHJ XSSI OGI MNQP.

Linemaro

You don't need reflective gear; nobody could miss you

Mindchow

Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world

Joke of the day

Engagement: A period in which a girl is placed in solitaire confinement

Loop

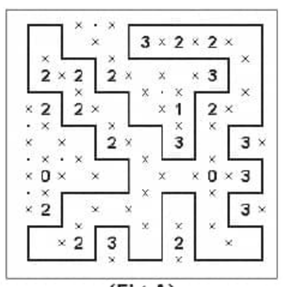
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

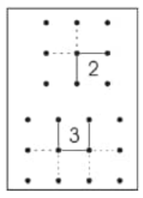
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

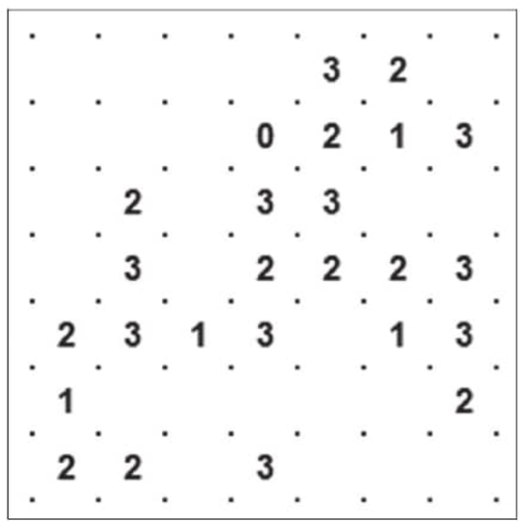
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



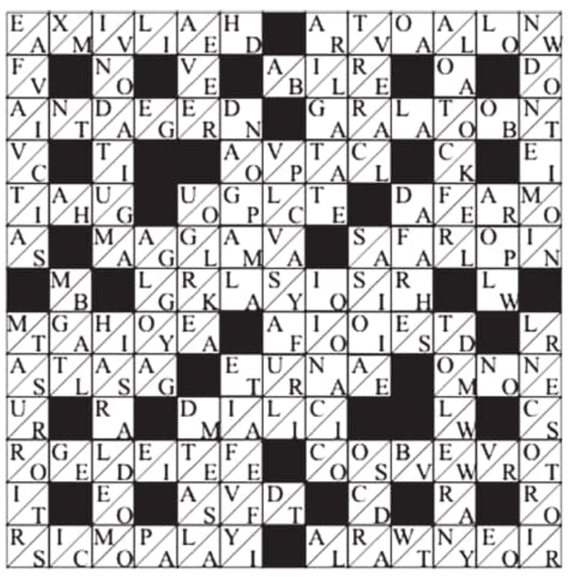
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9	H			

ACROSS

1 Roams; 6 A mare; 7 Dinar; 8 In CIA; 9 He Fit

DOWN

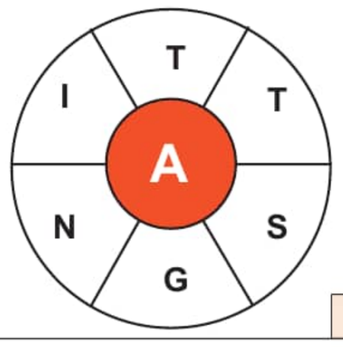
1 Manta; 2 Or cha; 3 Di-air; 4 Maine; 5 Fries

Mensapuzzle

Which two characters go into the empty boxes at the bottom of the table?

3	B
5	C
7	E
11	G
13	K

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5		2		3	6		7	
							3	
7	3	4			5			2
					1	7		
1		6				9		4
		8	2					
6			8			2	9	7
	8							
	2		5	9		8		6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6

1 5 6 8

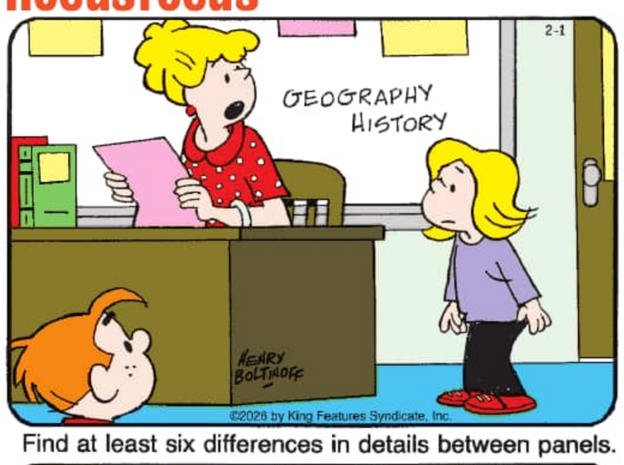
Medium = 12

1 4 6 9

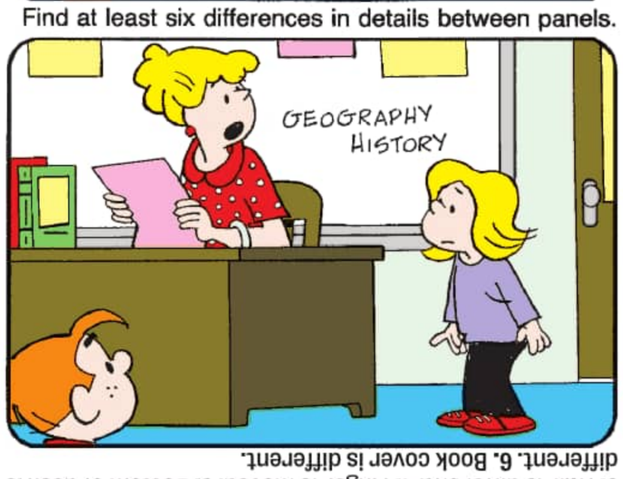
Hard = 13

6 7 7 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



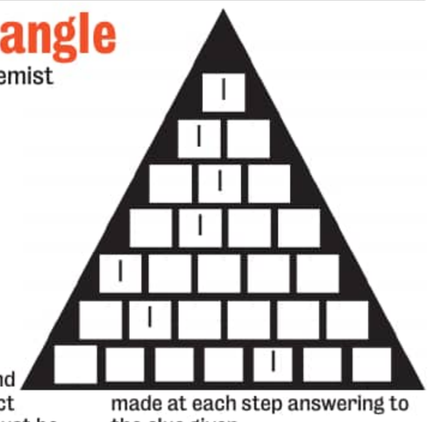
Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Back of chair is different. 3. Hair is different. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Bottom of desk is different. 6. Book cover is different.

Riddler

What does this represent? EMPLOY_ _ _ T

Alpha triangle

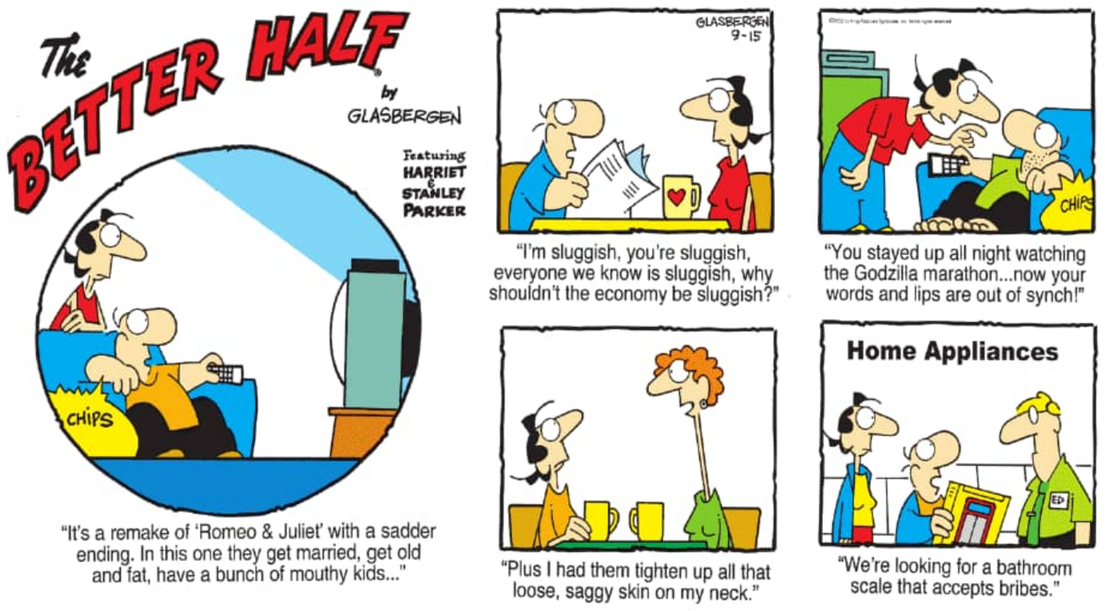
1 Iodine for the chemist
2 Less more
3 Do wrong
4 Cans
5 Small map
6 Most pleasant
7 Portion



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

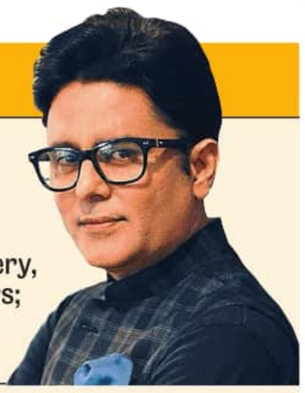
COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
CHIPS
"It's a remake of 'Romeo & Juliet' with a sadder ending. In this one they get married, get old and fat, have a bunch of mouthy kids..."
GLASBERGEN 9-15
"I'm sluggish, you're sluggish, everyone we know is sluggish, why shouldn't the economy be sluggish?"
CHIPS
"You stayed up all night watching the Godzilla marathon...now your words and lips are out of synch!"
"Plus I had them tighten up all that loose, saggy skin on my neck."
Home Appliances
"We're looking for a bathroom scale that accepts bribes."

MY MEN WAKE, PERFECTLY SILENT. THEY EXECUTE THEIR WEAPONS CHECKS AND AFFIX THEIR COMBAT MASKS. FOR JUST A MOMENT, I FEEL PRIDE.
FLASH GORDON
I'LL ASSIGN MYSELF A WEEK OF NIGHT WATCH FOR THIS LAPSE IN COMPOSURE.
THERE MUST BE NO INDULGENCE. WE ARE NOT POLICE. NOT SOLDIERS WHO CAN BE BOUGHT AND DISMISSED.
WE ARE A LONG-RANGE DEATH PATROL, SWORN TO CAPTURE THE ENEMIES OF EMPEROR MING. THE MAN MAY BE GONE, BUT THE OATH REMAINS.
TARGETS ENTERING THE TRADING POST, SERGEANT MORDO.
CONFIRM IDENTITIES, MAJOR.
"ZARKOV, HANS. SCIENCE ASSET. TARGET RANK B.
"ARDEN, DALE. INTELLIGENCE ASSET. TARGET RANK D.
"DRAGONMAN BOK. COMBAT TRAITOR. TARGET RANK C.
"GORDON, FLASH. EMPIRE ENEMY ONE. TARGET RANK S."
CONFIRMED. PINCER FORMATION 2-23.
DEATH PATROL!
ATTACK!
HEAVY RESISTANCE FROM GORDON AND BOK -- DP 5 AND 11 DOWN -- DP 8 --
--ARDEN WOUNDED--
ALL POINTS! INCOMING!
HAWKMEN!
REPEAT-- HAWKMEN!!
NEXT: RAPTOR SEASON

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Nurturing your inner world is vital this year. You will find comfort in domestic pursuits and quiet evenings. Focus on emotional security and building a safe space for yourself. A creative hobby involving your hands, like cooking or pottery, brings immense joy. Your intuition is particularly high regarding family matters; trust your gut when feelings seem slightly "off."

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Focus on home improvements or reorganizing your personal space. A decluttered environment mirrors a decluttered mind. You will find a lost item that holds significant sentimental value under the bed.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Comfort is your priority. Dedicate time to self-care and relaxation. Light a candle, soak in a bath, and let the stresses of the week melt away into the quiet evening.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your curiosity leads you to explore a new neighbourhood or park. Discovery brings a sense of wonder. Take photos to capture the beauty you find in the most unexpected places.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A surprise gift or gesture of appreciation brightens your day. Accept it with an open heart. You deserve to be celebrated for the kindness you constantly show to others daily.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your confidence is at an all-time high. Use this energy to tackle a daunting task. You have the charisma and the skill to succeed at whatever you choose to do.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Detail-oriented work brings a sense of satisfaction. You find peace in the precision of your craft. Your dedication to quality is evident in everything you produce for the world today.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Focus on beauty in your surroundings. Arrange some fresh flowers or art. A harmonious environment boosts your productivity and makes you feel more at peace with your current life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Intense research pays off today. You find the missing piece of a puzzle you have been working on. Trust your analytical mind to lead you toward the absolute truth.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Spontaneity leads to a joyful experience. Say yes to an unexpected invitation. Stepping outside your routine brings a fresh perspective and reminds you of the magic inherent in every day.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Financial discipline brings a sense of security. Review your budget and make small adjustments. Knowing where your money goes empowers you to make better choices for your future self.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Community ties are strengthened through a shared project. Your unique contribution is valued by the group. Working together for a common goal brings a deep sense of belonging and pride.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Intuition guides your interactions today. You know exactly what to say to comfort a friend. Your empathy is a superpower; use it to bring healing and peace to others.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Myraa, Bengaluru

Ramya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
angst, gain, gait, giant, gnat, saint, sang, satin, sating, snag, stag, stain, STATING, taint, TASTING

SOLVE IN 1M
(16 / 81) ^ (1/4) = 2/3
√(3^-4) = 1/9
(2/3) / (1/9) = 6

FAST FIVE

M	O	R	A	S
A	R	A	M	E
N	A	D	I	R
A	C	I	N	I
T	H	I	E	F

QUOTE UNCODE
Some things must be good in themselves, else there could be no measure whereby to lay out good and evil.

STRIKE OUT

S	I	M	P	L	Y		L	A	W	Y	E	R		
I		E		A	F	T		C		R		O		
R	E	L	I	E	F		C	O	V	E	R	T		
U		R		M	A	L	I		W			C		
S	T	A	G		T	U	N	A		O	N	E		
T	A	H	O	E		F	O	I	S	T		R		
	B		G	R	A	Y	I	S	H		W			
S		M	A	G	M	A		A	A	R	O	N		
T	A	U		O	G	L	E		A	E	R	O		
C		I		O	P	A	L		K		I			
I	N	D	E	D		G	A	L	O	O	T			
V		N		V		A	L	E		O		O		
E	X	I	L	E	D		A	V	A	L	O	N		

QUICK

												A		
												R		
S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E			S	U	E	D	
		C		T		L		P		A		W		
P	A	L	I	K	E		U	P	H	E	L	D		
		M			T	D	S			I				
C	R	U	S	S	T			A	D	I	O	S		
		E				O	U	T		E				
R	U	S	S	E	T		H	I	K	I	N	G		
Q		N		A		G		O		G				
G	N	A	W		M	A	I	N	T	A	I	N		
O		A		O		R		S		E				
C	A	P	E	T	O	W	N			R				

MENSA PUZZLE
17 & M. Numbers on the left descend in prime number order, starting with 3. Values of the right hand letters also follow the prime order sequence, this time starting with 2.

RIDDLER
Men out of work

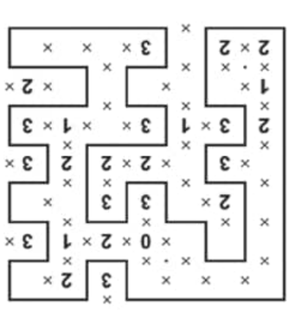
SUDOKU

5	9	2	1	3	6	4	7	8
8	6	1	7	2	4	5	3	9
7	3	4	9	8	5	1	6	2
2	5	9	4	6	1	7	8	3
1	7	6	3	5	8	9	2	4
3	4	8	2	7	9	6	5	1
6	1	5	8	4	3	2	9	7
9	8	7	6	1	2	3	4	5
4	2	3	5	9	7	8	1	6

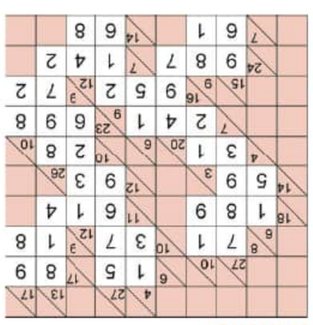
ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, Is, Sin, Tins, Inset, Nicest, Section.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 8 - 1 - 6 = 6
Medium
6 + 9 + 1 - 4 = 12
Hard
7 + 6 + 7 - 7 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 19, Issue No 021 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22325 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon-responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Tiring work
Zendaya says she was 'so tired' juggling 'Euphoria', 'The Odyssey', 'Dune: Part Three'

THE GALLANT STORY SO FAR...

Rukmini Vasanth's family history is shaped by service, courage and public duty

Rukmini Vasanth returned to the spotlight after 'Kantara: Chapter 1' put her before a wider audience. The Kannada actor plays Kanakavathi in the Rishab Shetty-led film, one of the most watched projects of her career. Her journey also carries a strong personal story. She is the daughter of Colonel Vasanth Venugopal, the Indian Army officer who died in action in Uri in 2007 while stopping infiltrators at the India-Pakistan border. According to NewsX, her life story links cinema, discipline and a legacy of service.

Rukmini is the daughter of Colonel Vasanth Venugopal, who served as Commanding Officer of 9 Maratha Light Infantry. He was killed during an operation in Uri in 2007. The officer later received the Ashoka Chakra posthumously for his gallantry. Her mother, Subhashini Vasanth, has also remained closely linked to work around army families and social support. Rukmini grew up with a family history shaped by service, courage and public duty. She has a sister, Yeshodha.

The actor later chose a very different path. She entered films and built her career in Kannada cinema. Her background, however, continues to draw attention because it connects her public life with the story of an army. family that faced loss at a young age.

Rukmini made her film debut with 'Birbal Trilogy Case 1: Finding Vajramuni' in 2019. She later became a familiar face in Kannada cinema with her strong roles.

—ETimes

Like mother, like daughter

Aaradhya Bachchan has been a familiar presence in Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's Cannes story for years. From being photographed with her mother as a little girl at the French Riviera to appearing in candid hotel, airport, and festival moments, she has often accompanied Aishwarya during her Cannes outings. This year, however, the mother-daughter journey took a new turn as Aaradhya stepped onto the red carpet with Aishwarya and posed for official photos.

Aaradhya attended the 'Lights On Women's Worth' event with Aishwarya on Friday evening. The 14-year-old wore a red satin gown and paired it with a matching cape. She kept her hair in loose curls with a side part. Aishwarya stood beside her in a blush pink Sophie Couture gown featuring floral detailing and a sheer cape.

The moment quickly became one of the most talked-about appearances from the festival. While Aaradhya has often traveled to Cannes with Aishwarya, this appearance stood out because she was not just seen accompanying her mother. She walked the red carpet with her and became part of the formal Cannes photo call.

—ETimes

Julia Roberts to star in 'Home Economics'

Hollywood star Julia Roberts is set to feature and produce the film adaptation of Katy Hays' forthcoming novel "Home Economics".

Alongside the actor, the Sony's 3000 Pictures film is produced by Lisa Roberts Gillan and Marisa Yeres Gill through their Red Om Films banner alongside Marc Platt, who will produce under Marc Platt Productions, according to the entertainment news outlet Deadline. The plot details of the film are kept under wraps.

"Home Economics" sold in a competitive publishing auction, landing at Pamela Dorman Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House's Viking, which will publish it in 2027. Besides, it has also been sold in 11 international territories.

Hays will executive produce the film.

Roberts' latest work is "After the Hunt", which released in 2025. She will next feature in "Panic Carefully". **—PTI**

Moments of suspense, with no affectations

MANGA MAAYA

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Prasad KS
- **ACTORS** Radhesh Shenoy, Prakash Shenoy, Akshath Amin, Prasanna Puttur, Chandan Kumar, Arun Shenoy
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 116 minutes

Manga Maaya is Prasad KS first film as a director. It has no actresses or any songs, but the film will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. The movie has around 10 actors and it was filmed at one location and the director has proved that one does not need huge sets and multiple locations to narrate a good story. All the actors have not used makeup and are wearing the same clothes throughout the movie.

The movie, set in the backdrop of Covid 19 pandemic, explores not only struggles of hapless unemployed youths but also focuses on politicians getting black money and how they use it to fund elections. It also focuses on how some police officers stoop to such a low level to help corrupt politicians and do not hesitate to harass hapless citizens.

The movie begins with Vijay (Chandan Kumar) visiting a lodge to book a room for 10 days. Rakesh (Prasanna Puttur), the lodge manager, agrees to allot the room and asks Manju (Radhesh Shenoy), the newly appointed room boy, to take Vijay's luggage to the allotted room. Vijay asks Manju not to enter his room, which the latter finds suspicious.

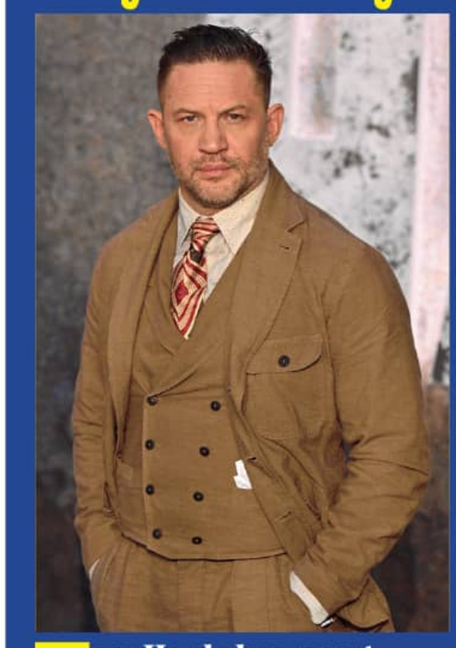
Meanwhile, a cash bag goes missing from Murthy's (Prakash Shenoy) room. The police enter the scene and arrest Vijay. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback to narrate the connection between Vijay and Pawan (Akshath Amin), a M.Sc graduate, who is compelled to work as a room boy at the lodge. You have to watch the movie to know who stole the cash bag and why.

Radhesh Shenoy provides comedy with his dialogues and gestures. Muhummed Haneef, as a personal assistant of a politician, has acted well. Akshath Amin, as a room boy with dignity, is convincing. Ranjan Shetty, who used to play small characters in movies, gets maximum space on screen and he has done justice to the role assigned to him.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch for those who enjoy suspense thrillers.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Hardy's clash may end his 'MobLand' term



Tom Hardy has reportedly been fired from the Paramount+ crime drama 'MobLand' after two seasons, following alleged tensions behind the scenes.

According to a report by Variety, Hardy was let go after what sources described as "on-set issues" involving executive producer Jez Butterworth, 101 Studios and others connected to the series.

A report obtained by Variety claimed the 48-year-old actor was repeatedly late to production during Season 2 and frequently gave script notes and altered dialogue.

The reports also suggested that Hardy was unhappy with the show's ensemble format, which featured several high-profile actors including Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan.

The report further alleged that the situation caused Butterworth to nearly leave the production, ultimately leading Paramount to remove Hardy from the project.

Hardy starred in the 'MobLand' series as Harry Da Souza, a fixer working for a London crime family. The show was executive produced by Guy Ritchie. **—ANI**